

**Commonwealth Avenue,  
QC's "killer highway,"  
to undergo facelift**

### Fifteen-year-old Debbie de Villa leads BP Ladies golf by 1

### Two generals' promotion backed by GMA lawmakers

**Cruise to exotic places, diamonds, etc. in goodie bags of Globe awards presenters**

### FVR, JDV still at odds over cutting Gloria's term

By Mitchell Lane Usher

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA APPEARS TO not have settled his differences with former President Fidel Ramon before the Lukus-CMIU decides on whether to cut short the term of President Manuel Antonio.

De Vries is pushing for the French mod-  
 (FBI 24)



# Abalos asks New ILO exec to push for gender equality at work

By Jerome Aring

GENDER INEQUALITY IN THE workplace is one of the top priorities of the newly appointed director of the International Labor Organization's Manila-based Southeast Asian Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

"Gender equality is not just about women's rights. It is about equality for every boy or girl to have the opportunity for education and work," said Linda Pineda, who headed ILO's Bureau for Gender Equality in Geneva, Switzerland, from 2003.

With an immediate, promised to push

for better jobs, decent working conditions, equal opportunities and support for labor rights in less developed countries.

"I always wanted to go work in an ILO office in the region like the ILO Manila because this is where the real action for decent work takes place," she said. "I look forward to working with govern-

ments, employers, workers and other partners of the ILO."

She said she felt "very happy" to work in the Philippines, adding: "I had a daughter some time in the Philippines because I was interested in human rights and social justice as a young liberal studies student in Australia."

By Jerome Aring

WITH ITS PREVIOUS ELECTION automation program impaired by legal issues and allegations of corruption, the Commission on Elections is looking for the creation of election automation, the 2007 mid-term elections in Congress and the largely administrative executive, Chief Executive Officer Sr. and partner.

"If we are to compete in 2007, we should know by now as our competitors," the Commission chief said. "We are, in fact, not in the same position as our competitors. We are, in fact, not in the same position as our competitors. We are, in fact, not in the same position as our competitors."

He said Congress should move up with the pertinent amendments to the modernization law with regards to the type of technology to be used in automation, he said.

"We are not the law to allow Congress to choose existing facilities that are situated in the cities. We should have the chance to (create) the law to allow technology that is appropriate for us," Abalos added.

Once the amendments are passed, the Department of Budgets can then figure a way when to get the necessary funding, he said.

Commission officials were willing to sit down with lawmakers to discuss ways to improve and further hasten the implementation of the modernization law, Abalos said, adding it was all right by itself. "If the law is not working and coming in 2007, we will be in a very difficult position."

During the investigation, the Supreme Court has taken a billion-peso deal entered into by the Commission for the purchase of automated counting machines. It also stopped the election body from implementing an electronic vote-count transmission project.

Abalos and his office, Commission, commissioners have expressed demands for better and more-organized groups for them to manage following the troubled computerization deal and allegations of their complicity in rigging the 2004 presidential election.

The Commission chief, who insisted that the automated election deal was above board, said the agency was hesitant in providing for computerization because of possible instances of profit and corruption.



# Palace tells Noli: Cut ties with ABS-CBN

Manila (PDI) — President Benigno Aquino III said today that he was not a fan of Noli de Castro's "palace" and that he was not a fan of the network's "palace" either, according to his spokesman, Presidential Media Services.

After Noli, ABS-CBN news anchor Maria Ressa also said she was not a fan of the network's "palace" either, according to her spokesman, Maria Ressa.

But he said he was a fan of the network's "palace" and that he was not a fan of the network's "palace" either, according to his spokesman, Presidential Media Services.

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TYKES ON TYRES  
Young United Nations children ride their wooden roller coaster from school on board a palanquin along United Nations Avenue in Manila.

## Maguindanao sultan shot ...

Manila (PDI) — A sultan of Maguindanao was shot today by a group of men in a van, according to a spokesman for the sultan.

The sultan, Sultan Kudat, was shot in the chest and arm, and he was taken to a hospital in Manila. He is now in critical condition.

The shooting took place in a public area in Maguindanao, and it was a surprise attack. The sultan was with a group of people at the time.

The sultan's death is a major event in the region, and it has caused a lot of concern. The sultan was a popular leader, and his death is a loss to the people.

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Dr. Jose V. Lopez is an expert in the field of credit transactions. He has been practicing law for over 20 years. He has been a member of the Philippine Bar Association and the Philippine Association of Attorneys.

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## Corrections

IN THE JAN. 11 ISSUE, the 10th paragraph of a story on Page A2, "XXI advised me to bring support go," contained the following correction: "XXI advised me to bring support go." The correction was made because the original text was incorrect.

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## GMA fitness to lead top agenda of Church execs ...

Manila (PDI) — The assembly of the Pope John Center for the Philippines, which is now in its final stages, is expected to be a landmark event for the Church in the Philippines.

The assembly is being held at the Pope John Center, which is a major center for the Church in the Philippines. It is expected to be a landmark event for the Church in the Philippines.

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## 400-PERCENT HIKE

# DENR chief notes entry of P518B in investments

By Norman Bordador

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND Natural Resources has documented the entry of more than P518 billion in fresh investments in 2005, a nearly 400 percent increase over 2004.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor made the announcement early this week at a week of preliminary talks going on indefinitely later to serve as President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff.

"This is a huge increase," Defensor said, comparing the P518.33 billion in 2005 to the P134.98 billion reported in 2004, representing a 374-percent increase.

These were investments that were aimed at environmental compliance conditions (ECCs), which are required of corporations whose operations may affect the country's environment and natural resources. The conditions are given once the firms have satisfied environmental protection requirements.

The DENR issued 4,958 ECCs in 2005.

Defensor credited the increase in the value of investments in power, mining and infrastructure.

DENR statistics showed that new power plants brought in the largest share of

investments with more than P28.9 billion.

The major players were First National Gas Power Corp., a project proponent of the new Gabriel power plant located in Sta. Rita, Batangas, and the Talosig Power Corp. that serves run 108 megawatt coal-fired power plants in Cebu, Negros, Cebu.

Another player in the power industry that caught up ECC last year was Mison Pagbilao Corp., which manages the Pagbilao expansion project in Pagbilao, Quezon.

Next to power plants came infrastructure projects with investments of P4.3 billion. This included the Manila Waterworks and Sewerage System with its Manila Third sewerage project in Metro Manila, Iloilo and Cebu.

In mining, total investments amounted to P2.7 billion and topping the list were the Diwata Direct Investment Development project in Mindanao, Compostela Valley and the proposed Clay Mining project in San Fernando, Cebu.

Gold miners also accounted for a huge chunk of the investments at P20.8 million and topping the list were the South Pacific Bayco Gold Course project in Davao City and the South Pacific Gold unit Letran, Cebu.

## Asean to push for security for tourism

TRADE MINISTERS FROM THE 10-NATION Association will meet in Cebu City today to discuss measures to protect the region's travel destinations from terrorism.

"The threat of terrorism remains a challenge for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations," Tourism Secretary Joseph Asa Delano told AFP ahead of the meeting, which ends on Jan. 21.

"However, with the collective efforts of the governments and private sector in the region, appropriate safety measures are being initiated to ensure a safe, sound and secure travel within the different destinations of the region."

The meeting is being held in Cebu, a city that has come under attack from al Qaeda-linked militants in the past.

Muslim militants believed to be former members of the separatist group Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) bombed a hotel's restaurant and a bus wharf in March 2005, killing over 200 people, including an American.

The 12,000-strong MILF is waging a rebel war for a separate state in Mindanao, but is currently in peace talks with the government.

Intelligence officials in the Philippines and in the region, however, say the group has harbored foreign fighters from the Arabic mainland (A).

The A is believed the 2002 and 2003 bombings on the Indonesian resort island of Bali that killed over 200 people.

The MILF is also believed to have some influence over the Abu Sayyaf, a small gang of Islamic militants on the Luzon department's list of foreign terrorist organizations that has carried out major attacks in the south.

Besides terrorism issues, ministers will also discuss ways to promote tourism as a "single destination" to get a bigger share of the world tourism market, Duterte said. **AFP**

## Mike A off again

FLIGHT CONTINUANCE JOHN MICHAEL ARROYO left again yesterday for Hong Kong.

Source at the Hong Kong International Airport (HIA) told the business that Arroyo left on board Cathay Pacific flight CX 906 at around 11 A.M.

The purpose of the trip of President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband was not known.

He was reportedly seen off by youngest son, Otto, Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) general manager Adolfo Dato, and MIAA's senior general manager for security and emergency services, retired Brig. Gen. Angel Arroyo.

The Flight Continuation was in Hong Kong last month to meet the grand marshal of the 2nd Southeast Asian Games (SEAG) in Hong Kong Disneyland.

The FOX couple's eldest son, Pangulong Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo also left for San Francisco Wednesday night, the airport source told the business. **MMA Online**

## linus Institute homecoming

INVESTORS IN THE LINUS INSTITUTE IN Hong Kong, have been asked to attend the 5th grand alumni homecoming on Jan. 21 at a 10-day training seminar Registration starts at 7pm.

The list of the event is Chair 91, this year's vice president, Linus Institute of Asia 96, the only in the world, the contact the following for more details: Linus Institute of Asia at 872-8799 or 872-8799-4000; Office of the President at 872-8799 or 872-8799-4000; and Linus Institute of Asia at 872-8799 or 872-8799-4000. Alumni listed ahead may receive Priority Card at 872-8799-4000; Linus Institute of Asia at 872-8799-4000; and Linus Institute of Asia at 872-8799-4000.







# World powers threaten Iran with sanctions

**TEHRAN, U.S.**—The United States, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, South Korea, and the European Union have agreed to impose economic sanctions on Iran for its nuclear program, according to a statement from the U.S. State Department.

The U.S. and its allies have agreed to impose economic sanctions on Iran for its nuclear program, according to a statement from the U.S. State Department.

The three European Union members have been seeking a negotiated settlement with Tehran for two years. Iran refused to accept the deal, and the U.S. and its allies have decided to impose economic sanctions on Iran for its nuclear program.

**DEHGHANIZADEH** is a senior advisor to the Iranian President, Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. He is a member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, the highest legislative body in Iran.

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TONY MONTENEGRO

**Biggest polluters pledge to put growth before Kyoto**

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — The world's seven biggest polluting nations pledged new measures to fight global warming Thursday, but they would not accept Kyoto, which would limit growth while trying to cut back on greenhouse gases.

The group was led by the U.S., which has the world's largest economy, followed by China, India, Russia, Japan, Canada, Brazil and South Korea.

The group also included the U.S., which has the world's largest economy, followed by China, India, Russia, Japan, Canada, Brazil and South Korea.

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**Climate-change fungus wiping out frogs, says study**

**GREENSBORO, N.C.**—A deadly fungus is wiping out frogs in the Southeast, according to a study by researchers at the University of North Carolina.

The study found that the fungus, which is called *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, is responsible for the deaths of thousands of frogs in the Southeast.

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# Diabetes, quiet killer, set to explode in US

**NEW YORK**—An estimated 500,000 adult Americans have Type 2 diabetes, a chronic condition that causes blood sugar levels to rise. In many cases, the disease is silent for years before symptoms appear. It is the only major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart disease, and stroke. It is also a leading cause of amputation. The disease is on the rise in children, and it is becoming increasingly common in people of all ages. And it is growing quickly more so than any other chronic disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that by 2030, more than 1 million Americans will have Type 2 diabetes. The disease is a leading cause of death and disability in the United States. It is a chronic condition that causes blood sugar levels to rise. In many cases, the disease is silent for years before symptoms appear. It is the only major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart disease, and stroke. It is also a leading cause of amputation. The disease is on the rise in children, and it is becoming increasingly common in people of all ages. And it is growing quickly more so than any other chronic disease. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that by 2030, more than 1 million Americans will have Type 2 diabetes. The disease is a leading cause of death and disability in the United States.



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A leading cause of bad breath is dry mouth. This can be caused by a variety of factors, including dehydration, certain medications, and medical conditions. Bad breath can be embarrassing and can affect your social and professional life. There are several ways to prevent bad breath, including staying hydrated, brushing your teeth regularly, and using mouthwash. If you have bad breath, it is important to see a doctor to determine the cause and get it treated.

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## Cordillera cop chief confirms 'jueteng'

BUENOS LITY—THE POLICE chief of Cordillera has confirmed that "jueteng" operations exist in Tuguegarao but has discounted reports that the game has spread to Baguio and Benguet.

Chief Insp. Leonardo Domingo said he heard his statements on the radio from newspapermen, instead of information relayed through the police or to local government.

He said a representative would should provide unbiased data about illegal gambling, now that Governor General Arroyo, Cordillera Philippine National Police chief, issued a representative policy against police units that are unable to stop illegal gambling in their areas.

### Text headline

Domingo said he was detailing a text headline exclusively for the Cordillera NCPC and the public to help him pin down wrong police officers involved in jueteng.

"Any problems long don take trouble any legalities more (The only problem is we may end up winning the whole police force)," he said. He said he would turn over the jueteng report in Tuguegarao to the Catholic diocese there to help "promote righteousness" between the police and the residents.

He ordered Senior Insp. James Jagan, Tuguegarao police chief, to coordinate an anti-jueteng campaign.

Gambling will continue to mushroom, he said, but a community-involvement and gambling program is the ticket to reducing illegal gambling operations in the provinces. Vincent Calles, JRO Northern Luzon Bureau

## SAD HOMECOMING IN BOHOL

# Fil-Am soldier receives hero's welcome

By Chris A. Farniss  
PULY Press Bureau

BOHOLANG, BOHOL—LITTLE James Ramirez Uag gave Sgt. Myla Marcella a welcome to be a hero.

A giant banner welcoming Myla hung across the national highway in front of the 20-year Union Elementary School which was where a kilometer away from the house where she grew up.

From the water where the highway road leads to Uag and the national highway, some 50 kilometers north of Tuguegarao, local schoolchildren waving hand-made paper flags of both the Philippines and the United States.

Catholic residents carried the occasionally muddy highway road as they followed the white banner that carried Myla's remains from Tuguegarao City and a photograph of her last seen in her uniform as they moved toward a kilometer from the national highway.

### Home now

"You are home now... you will never be forgotten," spits declared a student on the highway where Myla's remains would be the next day.

The house in this hamlet, Ramirez Uag was already prepared for the high-profile visit.

Four square white canopy were assembled in the camp space inside the fence of the approximately 200 square meter (campus) property.

On Wednesday afternoon, the armed forces of a Tagalog, re-trained marine, organized the band composed by the band for the long lines of people who lined the yard while



AN AMERICAN flag draped over the canopy carrying the remains of US Sgt. Myla Marcella, who was killed in Iraq, as she arrives at the Tuguegarao airport.

waiting for their turn to enter the house and view Myla's remains.

### Lights

Finally, Myla's coffin, along with a small crowd, including Gov. Erico Manzano and Jagan, Myla's family, arrived at the house.

It was emotional and full of joy, said Ramirez, who said she was among those who waited outside the house while a crowd of people gathered prepared the coffin for public viewing.

Workers hurriedly fixed extra wires to electric lamps in light spots composed during the night.

"We had already started preparing for Myla's arrival as soon as we heard that she was coming," said Domingo, 70, her oldest uncle who lives alone in the house.

It was emotional and full of joy, said Ramirez, who said she was among those who waited outside the house while a crowd of people gathered prepared the coffin for public viewing.

In the early 1990s, Myla joined her mother in Manila in 1997, where she graduated from high school in Bohol. She later joined the military.

After their October 1997 arrival, she was assigned to Uag for as long as her service.

"It is sad because we have lost a daughter, but it is a blessing that we have with the country, the province and the town," he replied in Cebuano.

When asked to comment on the service of the US soldier who was killed in Iraq, as she arrived in Tuguegarao.

There were only a few people who were in line, which included children, who were had a glimpse of Myla in her uniform, leading to Myla's coffin was laid to rest.

In the morning of Uag town, there is no doubt that Myla is greater in death than she was in life.

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# QC's 'killer road' to undergo facelift



**WRONG TURN**

Recent census records for area near the feared accident that led off the Panay Bridge in Batangas Municipality, Pang City, Westville. (Story on page A12)

By Tere V. Quinsada

A TWO-KILOMETER PORTION OF Commonwealth Avenue (also known as Don Mariano Marcos Avenue), dubbed as Quezon City's "killer high way" will soon undergo a facelift in line with the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's (MMDA) proposed major thoroughfare in the metropolis.

The section that would undergo rehabilitation is the busier part of the avenue. It begins some 400 m before the Overpass Road, and ends 500 m after the avenue's intersection at Bureau Road. Among the landmarks on the strip are St. Peter's Church and the headquarters building.

Commonwealth Avenue has been tagged as one of the metropolis' most perilous roads because of the number

of pedestrians who had been killed while crossing it.

"We are beginning with this section because this is what our bridges can afford," said Ramon Ota, chief of the MMDA Traffic Operations Unit. The national government has allotted P1.56 billion for the rehabilitation. Ota said the rehabilitation would be gradually start north and was expected to be completed by August.

"Assuming there would be no problem, we could do it in three to four months. But at times, unexpected problems like the breakdown of equipment could slow us down," said Ota.

"We will maintain the seven-lane width of the road," he added. "We chose the seven-lane because it's the widest, and it's the part where most

vehicles pass through."

The project's components, said Ota, include the installation of entry signs and street lighting and widening lanes on each side of the road, the construction of sidewalks and bike lanes and the establishment of redesigned U-turn lanes to allow for a wider and safer turning radius.

The MMDA also said it would be creating footbridges resulting the avenue's width near the Bureau Road intersection. The agency already aims to rehabilitate the entire 10.2 km stretch of the avenue.

Under the MMDA P3.19-billion Seven Major Road Program, other main arteries in the metropolis, including EDSA, the N.30 Road, C-3 Road, Quezon Avenue, Marikina Highway, and the Alabang Highway, would also be improved.



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# Knicks survive Mavs in OT

**NEW YORK—STEFAN MARIĆ** powered 20 points and Jamal Crawford chipped in with 25 off the bench to lead the surging New York Knicks past the Dallas Mavericks, 117-115, in overtime on Wednesday.

Maric scored 22 points while Andy Van Gundy had 11 points and outrebounded the Mavericks, winning their season's first overtime game.

But New York had a game-high 32 points in the first, which helped the Knicks' three-game winning streak.

The Knicks forced overtime when Maric hit two free throws on a fastbreak in Portland, and Crawford scored 27 points in the first. Dallas' Dwight Howard had 24 points and 10 rebounds.

But Howard had a game-high 12 points

in the first, helping his scoring rate of 40-plus points per game to second. He scored 40 points in his first four games.

In other games, Kevin Durant (34-29 points), Gilbert (34 rebounds) and J.R. Smith (21 points) led the Oklahoma Thunder to a 107-95 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Marion (27-15) and Andre Iguodala (27-15) combined to score 54 points in the Philadelphia 76ers' 103-92 win.

The 76ers' win was their first since Jan. 10.

The Knicks' win was their first since Jan. 10. The Mavericks' loss was their first since Jan. 10. The Thunder's win was their first since Jan. 10. The Cavaliers' win was their first since Jan. 10. The Oklahoma City Thunder's win was their first since Jan. 10. The Philadelphia 76ers' win was their first since Jan. 10. The New York Knicks' win was their first since Jan. 10.

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**HAYES** Dark Mavens look to rebound in overtime after Knicks' early lead.

## Tribu nips Spring Oil

**PHILADELPHIA—STEFAN MARIĆ** powered a key Spring Game 140 win in the 100th anniversary of the 1910-11 season.

Christian Maric and Justin Maric scored 14-10 points in the second round in the 100th anniversary of the 1910-11 season.

With the 100th anniversary, 75-75, 100 points in the 100th anniversary of the 1910-11 season.

"I'm glad that a long trip, coming from the other side of the world, and I'm glad to be here," Maric said.

Maric said that a long trip, coming from the other side of the world, and I'm glad to be here.

Maric said that a long trip, coming from the other side of the world, and I'm glad to be here.

Maric said that a long trip, coming from the other side of the world, and I'm glad to be here.

## Hewitt winning run ends at 22

**SAN FRANCISCO—GLENN HARTNETT** won 22-10 in the 100th anniversary of the 1910-11 season.

Hewitt won 22-10 in the 100th anniversary of the 1910-11 season.

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## La'O, 2 others near 3rd round



**LA'O** Dark Mavens look to rebound in overtime after Knicks' early lead.

La'O won 22-10 in the 100th anniversary of the 1910-11 season.

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La'O won 22-10 in the 100th anniversary of the 1910-11 season.

La'O won 22-10 in the 100th anniversary of the 1910-11 season.



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## Top int'l shuttlers vying in RP Open

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BIRMINGHAM (BIRMINGHAM) AND world champion Thrill Eddy and the Philippine Open badminton tournament are expected to see action in the inaugural Philippine Open badminton tournament held at March 15-5 at the Philippine Sports Training City.

World No. 1 Lin Dan of China, Pi Hongyan of France and the Netherlands' Ma Jin of China, among the main draw of last year's BWF Cup tournament here like Hidayat, Ratchanok and Gopichand are also expected to be in action.

The Philippine Open will mark the return of the country to among the international badminton federations, which was a status of first-time badminton country qualifying position after a decade, according to Philippine Badminton Association president Amador "Bing" Torres.

PBA executive vice president Edgardo Aguirre said they are confident the world-class players will be coming over because of the Olympic qualifying period for the Olympic Games.

The Olympic, he added, will provide the Asian "China" team in Beijing, which should make it a top-up tournament for Asian badminton in China.

The PBA officials also heard that the 2007-21 rally, which is expected to be the first time in the country, which will increase the number and increase the number of players per set from 15 to 20, and to that of badminton.

Aguirre, the former PBA president, also announced the appointment of David Chan, the former national development coach, to be the national coach.



PHILIPPINE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION President Amador "Bing" Torres (center) with other officials and athletes at a press conference.

He said that they are confident of the return of the PBA badminton players to the national level during the 2007 Southeast Asian Games.

"We are not discouraged because the players in the SEA Games were world champions," said Torres during yesterday's press conference held at the Philippine Sports Training City.

Siddhant Kaur and Ratchanok Intong are also expected to be in the national team in the Philippine Open.

**Hero chess clinics begin tomorrow**  
A 4 (P) chess clinic will be held at the Hero Chess Club in the afternoon today and tomorrow only chess clinics of tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Hero Chess Club, 801 Northwood Road, 3rd Floor, Northwood Mall, Cebu City, and from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Hero Chess Club, 801 Northwood Road, 3rd Floor, Northwood Mall, Cebu City. The clinics are open to all ages and are free of charge.

**SPORTSWATCH**  
JAL, the national, will be the main sponsor of the 2006 PBA All-Star Game. The game will be held at the Araneta Coliseum on January 14, 2006. The game will be the first time in the history of the PBA All-Star Game. The game will be the first time in the history of the PBA All-Star Game. The game will be the first time in the history of the PBA All-Star Game.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE		Watch Pinoy Power in America's Hottest Dance Challenge!		The City	
Channel	Time	Program	Channel	Time	Program
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Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat  
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Ating kabalitaan  
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## WHAT'S INSIDE

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had GSIS  
for lunchCAB suspends  
Tiger permit

## BUSINESS

Read to your front/back: Inquirer for more info: [www.inquirer.com](http://www.inquirer.com) or 1-202-338-1234 or B1-Direct

## Traders lose out on VAT cap rate appeal

DOF cites potential abuse, tax leaks in changing uniform rate

By Nicholas N. Bana

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAS JUNKED THE PROPOSAL of the business community to set different VAT cap rates for various industries, saying that changes in the uniform rate of 70 percent could lead to abuse and tax leaks.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran said the DOF would no longer pursue the proposed setting of different value-added tax cap rates for each industry

because it did not see much benefit from the proposal.

"It is difficult to have different rates because some businesses may ... make

it appear that they are covered by a rate more favorable for them," Beltran said.

Butler, some members of the business community strongly lobbied to be covered by a VAT cap rate higher than 70 percent. The businessmen claimed that the existing rate was anti-growth.

They also said a VAT cap rate should be determined based on the capability of an industry to generate profits and should not be uniform.

The 70 percent VAT cap, as provided

for in the VAT System Law that took effect last November, requires that a taxpayer could only claim input VAT credits of up to a maximum amount equal to 70 percent of its output VAT.

Input VAT is the amount of VAT that company shoulders every time it purchases goods or services, whereas output VAT is the VAT it pays on its sales.

Prices include the 10 percent VAT input VAT is deductible from one's VAT liability, or output VAT.

INQUIRER



**STOCK MARKET**  
PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

**Stocks rise 0.4%**

STOCKS TODAY ROSE AS investors took advantage of the previous session's retreat to start for longer.

The benchmark S&P Composite Philippine Stock Exchange Index rose 7.94 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,101.61, after sliding 0.3 percent Wednesday.

Technically, the market's upswing went over the long-term "sell" signal on the Dow Jones Industrial Index signals. "The upswing for stocks is still there," an investment consultant advised, despite the oil price volatility, which remains bullish for investors.

Market indicators fell to 25, while 20 stocks were unchanged.

## Pera threatens to eat into gov't revenues, DOF claims

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE ESTIMATED that the government stands to lose about P1.8 billion annually from a proposed measure granting government bond incentives to individuals who choose to open pension plans.

There is a proposal in the Senate called the Personal Equity and Investment Account (PEIA) bill that encourages an individual to open a personal investment account or voluntary pension plan with a chosen financial institution. The bill grants tax privileges to anyone who will open a PEIA.

Under the proposal, which is backed by the central bank and other financial institutions, exemption from the 20 percent tax on interest income arising from PEIA would lead to a potential revenue loss of as much as P1.82 billion every year, according to DOF data.

The amount would be on top of the expected P1.20 billion tax collection loss from the proposed preferential tax treatment of Personal Equity Accounts.

The bill states that individuals with PEIA accounts are granted a 5 percent tax credit. The tax credit would mean that, if an individual has P50,000 credit on his PEIA, he or she would be allowed to deduct P2,500 (5 percent of P50,000) from his or her income liability.

INQUIRER

## Key policy rates kept for third straight month

By David C. Dumlao

THE MONETARY BOARD YESTERDAY VOTED to keep its key overnight rate steady for the third straight month given easing inflationary pressures, appreciating peso, softening oil prices and ample food supply.

The overnight borrowing rate on reserve repurchase was maintained by the Monetary Board of Philippine policy-making body at 7.5 percent and the overnight lending or repurchase rate at 9 percent during its monthly policy rate setting meeting.

Recent evidence of easing inflationary pressures supports an unchanged policy setting, Monetary Board Chairman Rodrigo Duterte said.

# BusinessFriday

## 'Hotdog king' brings home an American dog

By Margie Quijme-Espino

**S**O MANY IN THE SAME business have come and gone. Those who want in it even included major corporations with strong financial muscles but did not fare as well.

After almost 20 years, Rene F de Luna's business remains and is going strong, but he does not quite know why his business survived while others did not.

During the early '80s when his girlfriend, now his wife, Amy was still working at the then General Bank of the Philippines (now Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas), Rene noticed some employees were wearing Adidas shoes and expensive watches.

He wondered how government employees, who then generally had salaries, could afford such luxuries. He asked around and found out some of these employees were entrepreneurs on the side—selling food stalls or kiosks in the American Plaza mall, which is now across the General Bank office.

At the time for food items were planning to get married and were looking for other sources of income. He decided to set up a food stall.

But says he later thought, the results he collected when he would sometimes find the stall looking on the dining tables had little effect on revenue and publicize that before going to school. He also recalls the joy of looking in stores at the Fila General which seemed to be selling well.



He thought of opening a stall that would sell hotdogs.

The approach worked, which drew him a supermarket in Marikina Plaza, to get a site in Marikina area.

Business opened his application but suggested he might want to sell when things were added because he has more. When Rene set up his stand, he also worked with Orlan, his wife. He also checked the mall during lunch break and stayed in the bank until closing time of the supermarket to collect the day's earnings.

His parents, although entrepreneurs, did not believe in his business idea. Even his first business partner did not want

PHOTO BY JOE ANGELO, ANGELO AND ANGELO'S LIVES

THE FIRST hotdog stand in Conny Island, New York, opened in 1911.



disbelieved, citing that he was selling a very small stand for P5,000 a month while also had paying the same amount for a 100-square-meter kiosk in the same building at the airport.

The only one who supported Rene's idea was his wife, Amy. He started with a 100-square-meter kiosk in the same building at the airport.

After opened the first outlet in 1984, Rene's day sales were dropping—P300. But it slowly increased to P500, P1,000. On his wedding day, sales jumped to P15,000.

But the expansion of Rene's stand in Manila was slow—only one outlet a year between 1984 and 1987. His conservative approach was due to the fact that initially, many think, Rene and Amy were into the business, Rene says.

Thirteen years later in 1997, he only had 15 outlets. At that time his business was more into the fast food kiosk business than hotdogs with Nathan's Famous.

One of the big ones however has since decreased their outlets and the others are closing down.

Based on this, on the other hand, Rene's stand is doing well. He is now expanding his stand by opening more outlets in the same building at the airport.

Industry sources have pointed out that Rene's stand is always open to new ideas. He is always looking for new ideas to expand his business.

He is also looking for new ideas to expand his business. He is also looking for new ideas to expand his business.

He is also looking for new ideas to expand his business. He is also looking for new ideas to expand his business.

## Ventures for P500,000 or less

MANY FILIPINOS TRYING TO BECOME OF business and investment opportunities. He checked-out the website of the American in the Philippines Franchise Inc. and came up with the following options for those with P300,000 to P500,000 in funds.

### Pick & Mix by Candy Mia

Started in February 1998, Candy Mia Pick & Mix is the first candy specialty store in the country, pioneering sale of candies by weight through the pick and mix bins. However, its main name "Pick & Mix by Candy Mia" is used.

In 2002, it was taken in by Ted T. Pineda and his brothers as a company for its parent company, which is a company in the Philippines.

In 2002, it was taken in by Ted T. Pineda and his brothers as a company for its parent company, which is a company in the Philippines.

### Karin's Tiag

Defined as "what that food is in a box," Karin's Tiag is not only a food stand but also a food stand.

It is a food stand with a small cart selling various food items in a box. It is a food stand with a small cart selling various food items in a box.

### Fargallo

Milka Corporation was started in 1988 under a Filipino-Italian venture as a manufacturer of "Angeles" ice cream products in large blocks, waffle cones and food items.

It is a manufacturer of "Angeles" ice cream products in large blocks, waffle cones and food items. It is a manufacturer of "Angeles" ice cream products in large blocks, waffle cones and food items.

### Chickadee by Legit's

"Chickadee" by Legit's food carts are known for their delicious and healthy food.

his business and imported quality products. Started in 1987 by owner Brenda Lopez, Chickadee is a food cart selling quality products.

Chickadee is a food cart selling quality products. It is a food cart selling quality products.

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WIFE OF THE CEO OF THE COMPANY, she is a businesswoman and a mother. She is a businesswoman and a mother.

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Dr. Neil Roberts is a business consultant and a mother. He is a business consultant and a mother.

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## Business and branding advice from Al Ries - I



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Gokongweis had GSIS for lunch

**DAVID JOHN CHAMBERS JR.** and his brother James were seen with fellow Congressmen and another weight-losser candidate, CEE president William Gavin, helping themselves to the generous lunch buffet spread at the

"We [don't] want any thing," said Mr. John, breaking into hearty laughter, when informed that he had been proposed secretary of the GSG.

The Goughsboro' family was a major shareholder of P2Bank before it was nationalized, with the help of the Government Securities Insurance System, by the smaller Fidelity Bank during the 1930s.

Indeed it is the line of a certain bank was part of the post-embellishment discussions, Mr. John asserted. "My client's concern was the Phillips' new building," referring to the half-demolished building half-owned by CBR that now sits vacant, barely as much as a collapse in front of the adjacent Goldman bank.

"That building is not only an eyesore, it is also an accident waiting to happen," the sharply agitated millionaire said. After a brief hush, Mr. Aron finally admitted that its sizable P/T bank did figure in his talks with Garcia, but professed to keep his thoughts between him and the CEO chief.

"Yeah, if Winston Churchill and I were cooking up something, I would not discuss it to three of a hundred people," Mr. John said, referring to the Constitution signed at the Brown Congress only.

According to the guideline, the sugar tax considered imposing both liquidated PCBs and, in early half the price only in the Athens, years which was selling through several difficulties.

But the tobacco industry was said to have been held in check by his son, Lucas, and Mr. Jones, who both did not resist the additional amounts into the hands of the industry around and spread both said financing industry greatly, while at the same time fighting with the increasingly regional authorities of the AG. General, National Assembly of the Republic.

Gill, the spokesman, says a specialist from the bank and was apparently kept abreast of developments, courtesy of his friend and travel companion, Antonio Gil, who was Equitable Fidelity's chair until his last year's surrender to the financial constraints of 2002 Mexico. He says

## 2 groups offer to buy GSIS stake in EPCIB

**GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE FTX** has presidents and general manager William Davis said two groups of foreign investors, represented by a Manila-based lawyer, had offered to buy all the shares of the GSI in Singapore. Davis said he had not yet seen the offer.

Carrizo said he had received a letter from the lawyer, whom he declined to identify for the public, warning for the afternoon.

On behalf of our two (2) groups of clients, we hereby register their intentions/interest to keep all the shares of stock of the GSEI in liquid, until \$15.00, at the price of \$92 per share, subject to adjustment depending on the result of the due diligence examination of the records of the bank and the terms and result that they may be mutually agreed upon," the letter to Garcia stated.

"This latest of issues demonstrates the trust and confidence of our foreign clients in the economic stability of the country and faith in your banking system," The letters added.

The other cases after the group of steel-makers Equinox Ty offered to acquire Bataco de Oro and Equinox through a share swap, offering 1.8 shares of Bataco de Oro for every share of Equinox. Another said the offer was important to about 770,000 gov shares, diminishing gradually to the barest of shares.

Equinox formed the merger offer as "grossly and manifestly disadvantageous" to the public and its shareholders.

The state pension fund holds almost 12 percent of the 1000 shares of Inagimobil. The shares were acquired in 1999 at PSE per share. Surprisingly the GDR was willing to sell its stake only at the right price, which is at least 150,000 shares.

Traders . . . [Investing.net](#)

Some lawmakers, including those in the automotive sector, said the 75 percent VME cap should only be applied to industries that have huge profit margins. A 70 percent VME cap would be more realistic for capital- and labor-intensive businesses, they said.

But Strauss said the recent move of the DOJ and the Bureau of Internal Revenue to limit the coverage of the 70 percent "rule" cap would have worsened the complexity of the law.

When the LRS and the IRS came out, the implementing rules and regulations (RRL) under the LRS before the IRS, Helmut said, the agencies already made a broad communication of the LRS law.

The IRS states that the 70-percent cap on input VAT credits would only apply to companies whose input VAT credits exceed their output VAT.

This means that companies whose *Inspire* VSE credits reach an amount equivalent to 100 percent of their original VSE, then they could claim the *Inspire* VSE credits in full. On the other hand, a company whose *Inspire* VSE credits reach 101 percent of their original VSE, then it could claim credits equivalent to only 70 percent of its original VSE.

### See Also

### Get Inspired & Review

**SEVERE** labor unions' declining numbers are apparently not being offset by an older workforce.

Ma. Aracelis Delella (b. 1969, 27 Jan) is an assistant professor in the mathematics department of the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City. She received her M.S. in Mathematics from the University of the Philippines and her Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Cambridge, UK. She is currently working on her research in the area of algebraic geometry.

Hydrex has tied up with United Laboratories in sponsoring the 2nd Philippine conference on biotechnology enterprise and investment on Jan. 27 to 28.

Featuring: *musicians, and female scientists, the audience will dis-*

## COCKTAILS

### Figure 1



Among the world's most biologically rich countries, could you name the \$200-billion-a-year nation?

breakthroughs that have revolutionized defense applications are the 1990s discovery by Drs. Subramaniam Ojima and Louis DeChia of *nanocellulose*, a non-soluble polysaccharide developed from and based on what is said to be a thousand times more powerful than morphine, and the nanoscale fiber ball transport technology pioneered by Basilios Chalkiadakis, an engineer from California (see page 10).

**Heard through the grapevine**  
THE FOUNDERED Designed Grove

can be seen above as well. Antonio Garcia has decided to split off even the head quarters in Ponce Road, an eight-story building sitting on a 1,000-square-meter lot, in a desperate effort to raise cash.

The house is said to be unique John Galsworthy Jr., which will mark his first residential construction. It is to be the largest village workshop of the district.

Email: [caroline.poliquin@na.uva.nl](mailto:caroline.poliquin@na.uva.nl) or  
[caroline.poliquin@na.uva.nl](mailto:caroline.poliquin@na.uva.nl)

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- Music player
- Text, Email
- Large float size screen



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- Music player
- Text, Email
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## IT deals to hit P2OB-BOI

By Bernard W. Duggan

INVESTMENTS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY-related services are expected to reach P20-billion this year, an increase of at least 30 percent, as at least seven big firms have signed income tax putting up call centers and other non-process outsourcing operations here.

Colin H. Rogers, executive of the Bureau of Investments, in a press briefing declined to state the companies but said all seven were based in the United States.

Speaking during the launch of the 4th Out-sourcing Conference and Exhibition, Rogers said that in 2007, investments in the IT sector reached a total of P12.11 billion spread over 79 projects registered with the government's investment-promoting agencies.

Of the 79 projects listed with the BIR, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Bay Area Metropolitan Authority and Clark Development Corp., last year, the biggest in terms of project cost was American firm Dell Inc. a \$1.6-billion call center in Pampanga.

The Philippines will continue its reputation in the IT industry through the 2008, though also called "Service Philippines 2008," would be held from Feb. 16-17 in Mandaluyong City.

Organized by the United for International Trade Expositions and Missions, UTEM 2008 would showcase the country's expertise in medical, manufacturing, automation, software development, BPO engineering design and contract research services.

In a related development, Trade Secretary Peter B. Delfino said the UTEM group was looking at putting up a second call center to its existing following the successful operation of its first one in Hifon, Iloilo.

Nokia said UTEM was considering the northern part of Iloilo. Mostly as a location for the second call center, which would help expand the company's non-core activities and has 3-offer operations here, specifically in Iloilo and surrounding.

Last July UTEM launched its 2,000-odd, P1.5-billion call center in Iloilo, which is the group's largest site in Asia including those in India, China and Thailand.

## Globe asks NTC to stop PLDT, Smart promo

By Clarissa S. Babilao

GLOBE TELECOM INC. HAS ASKED THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission to suspend the P1.5 call pricing scheme that the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and its wireless units have used to offer "beyond."

Globe claimed that the P1.5 call price of PLDT is PLDT to Smart and PLDT to Talk 70 free calls, as well as the P1.5 for 70-minute calls from Smart to PLDT and Talk 9. But to PLDT, since "beyond" says PLDT had offered to include other carriers in the pricing.

PLDT said in a Dec. 10 letter to Globe that it could not include its service and for premium P1.5 would appreciate the Commission act between Globe and PLDT.

Globe said PLDT's pricing scheme was below the wholesale access rate.

"It is a sensitive issue and we are particularly at P1.5 per minute call," said Freddie Canales, Globe's head of regulatory affairs.

The NTC had said it does not have problems with PLDT's plan if it would offer the same pricing, with the same terms, to other carriers.

The P1.5-a-month, PLDT may say is offering the P1.5 per call pricing call per call with PLDT and its wireless units but also to Globe, Smart, and other carriers. It said it and other members of the Philippine Association of Primary Telephonic Co. or Poptel, the umbrella organization of small telcos in the province.









## LIFE STYLE

Lifestyle.com is a Philippine magazine

There are your friends!  
Report: [lifestyle.com.ph](http://lifestyle.com.ph)  
2007 (March to May) (June)

Late Chels Bonafant

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CHRISTIAN Lacroix

Amid unhealthy times, people want to attain a healthy lifestyle psyche this year



LIZA Soberano



BRIE Larson



Kyla Aguilera

## Manila braces for French designer Christian Lacroix retrospective

**L**AST WEEK LIZA TINN GAM was all over the place making arrangements for Christian Lacroix's visit to Manila in April. The French Embassy and Alliance Française are sponsoring a Lacroix retrospective here.

Sheepish that Liza is a bit of a feminist and one other thing: "I think I need 40 hours a day to achieve what I want, in the next half century of my life. I'd like to be a scientist again, ride my camera to know about anything I fancy. I need instant communication, especially now that cities are going global and markets becoming virtual."

Bonnie Lutz, a noted other brands and celebrities about their plans for '04 and at what point they think they are in their life. It's a good way to touch base and gauge the pulse of people in the celebrity scene.

Life Aguilera will come out with her own glossy called *E. Star* when pretty hands-on in the editorial requirements, I can tell you.

Brandi Ching again has sights on the '07 opening of Cebu's 5, which will have been signed only of Filipino designers. He will finally have his lifestyle boutique there.

Justin Aguilera's team will release *Life*, as do more big shows. (May 10-12, 8 PM to 10 PM.)

Marco Perdomo: "I want to continue to be in love, stage the Liza Fashion Week which will include *Shimmer & Shine*."

Francina Flores: "I've gone through enough experience (and had to take me where I am the things that really matter—God, family, true friends and love for myself). In '04 I plan to channel my efforts towards love and romance. I don't ever know."

Francina Dela Cruz: "I'd like to find—do more with what I'm doing in life. I'm in a good place, thankful to God for his many blessings."

Mark Felix: "I had 100 hours in 2003. I want to lose another 100 and become a man who is more spiritual and be less distracted by what's happening around me. What makes me happy is going to the gym and making others feel that same people happy."

Rico Lacerda: "I'm a pianist. We have plans to launch our brand in HK, Shanghai, LA, San Francisco. It's time to establish this as the world's Filipino talent. I'm willing to take that risk."

Pete Tizon: "To try to survive this economy crisis by being more creative, working harder, being more positive and charming."

Patty Anderson: "It's all about expanding my horizons, taking greater challenges, learning to appreciate and enjoy the one life we have to live."

Biba Sanchez: "I find the quiet moments in my own, much needed. Moments of solitude really help me to look through my day. I'll push projects like *Life* for the winter in Cebu and the *Shimmer & Shine* of May."

Edeline Ochoa-Pan: "I'm finally realizing my dream house, to have a second baby. I'm also going to the wedding. It's really hard to be in

### LIFE-STYLED

Rebecca  
Marion Novato



new world, here and there. I should pick one already."

The Vaps: "To fully embrace technology by putting up my website, also try to expand to Singapore, China, Goa for 'lifestyle' or more projects. I last year was having the trouble, this year is starting and working a great. I'll have a new lifestyle reality show

called 'WTF' thing. I'll show a new campaign for *Life* and change limited edition products for an anniversary."

Neil Matthews: "I'm not up, I'm in something emotional. I actually realized that living the present doesn't work in the real world."

Tom Gregory: "In the constant state of love, I love what I do and yet to do that, write, inspire young people and be inspired by them."

Support: "We're looking for my plan to be in the world. I have only for 10 months, I want more to go."

Lawrence Dela Cruz: "Not really in a good place. My only daughter is away at college."

marion (1)





